cient materials. What was the necessity to send him to Madras and back?

President.—Was the Chingleput Asylum in existence at the time that the Anappara Asylum was built?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Long before that.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—*No*, Sir. I may inform the Council that it is not a fact.

The period of appointment of the Diwan.

6. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform.—

(a) the period for which the present Diwan was first appointed;

(b) whether that period has since been extended, and if so, for how long;

(c) that, if his period has not been extended already, the Government has not yet started any correspondence for extending his period; and if the answer is in the affirmative, for how long it is proposed to be extended; and if the answer is in the negative, whether the Government will not pay its early attention to the consideration of extending his period?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The answer of the Government is the same as that given to question No. 468 in the Kumbham sitting of the Legislative Council.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It is confidential. What is the reason for keeping it confidential? According to section 201 of the *Cochin Civil Service Regulation*, it is said that in every case extension should be given for not more than one year at a time, and your period was extended perhaps for one year; and we have to know, if the period has been extended further.

President. I say this matter is contained in a confidential document, and cannot be disclosed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—We want to know, Sir, who is the President of the Council?

President.—The President of the Council is myself.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—But your period as Diwan has not been extended to our knowledge.

President.—But, of course, so long as he continues Diwan, he is the President.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—According to the section quoted, his period has to be extended, and extension should be given for not more than one year at a time.

President.—Those Standing Orders do not apply to the Diwan. They refer to other officers. But, after all, what is

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there to show that the present Diwan's appointment was for one year?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Does not the C. S. Regulation apply to the Diwan?

President.—The Diwan is bound by the terms of his covenant with His Highness the Maharaja, so far as his appointment is concerned. There are special terms of appointment in regard to the Diwan.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the Diwan above the Cochin Service Regulation?

President.—That question does not arise.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—We have to know whether the period of the President of the Council has been extended, and, as long as the Diwan is the President, we have a right to know whether the period of the Diwan has been extended.

President. If the Diwan's term has been extended, you may take it that the Diwan, by virtue of his office, will continue as President, so long as he is Diwan.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I don't hear you, Sir.

President.—If there has been an extension of the term of the office of the Diwan, by virtue of his office as Diwan, he continues to be the President. So long as he holds the office of Diwan, he holds the office of President.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—We have to know who is the President.

President —You find the Diwan acting, doing his duties, etc.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—You come and sit in the chair. That is all we know.

President.—I think, if you talk like this, I must bring you to order.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—You have just now announced, Sir, that you are the Diwan-President. The Gazette notification of the 14th of April 1925 announces that your period of appointment was for one year.

President.—Where is the notification that it is for one year? Don't give wrong facts to the Council.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—According to the Service Regulations, in every case the extension of an officer should not be for more than one year at a time.

President.—No, no. The Diwan stands apart from all the Heads of Departments. He draws special power from His Highness the Maharaja as Diwan, and he is bound by special terms. You won't find any notification in the Gazette to show that the Diwan has been appointed for a period of one year.

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Mr. M. K. Raman.—I refer to the Gazette of the 14th of April. That was the time when the Diwan's period was extended.

President.—The 14th of April was the time when the Diwan was *appointed* as Diwan. That is in 1925.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—When an officer is to retire, a further extension can be allowed only for one year at a time. And, after that, we don't find any notification extending your term for any further period.

President.—You have to take the Diwan's case as distinct from that of any other officer. So far as the Diwan is concerned, he may have a term of one year, 2 years, 3 years, or 5 years, and there is no question of extending. It is His Highness' pleasure to retain him and appoint him for special periods, and those matters are laid down in confidential documents which cannot be disclosed.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Am I to understand, Sir, that the Service Regulations would not affect the appointment of the Diwan? We are not in a position to know what the terms of the appoinm ent of the Diwan are.

President.—I mean, because it should not be known, therefore, it is kept confidential.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—On a point of order, Sir. Before question time began, Dr. Govinda Menon, the Member for Tattamangalam, referred to the answering of questions for the last few questions of the last session, and you were pleased to say that you ruled that all questions will be considered to have been answered which are not covered in the day. In this connection, I will refer you to Rule 13 of the Cochin Legislative Council Rules. That rule is. "The President may rule that an answer to a question in the statement of business for the day shall be given on the ground of public interests, even though the question is not put, or the member in whose name it stands is absent." That makes it clear that there cannot be a general rule. A ruling shall have to be made in each case. And with regard to this question, no ruling was made during the last occasion.

President.—A general ruling will apply to all questions.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—A general ruling cannot be made in the face of Rule 13. I may be more explicit. Suppose a question turns up, and the member is absent. The President may rule whether the question should be answered or not.

President.—The Secretary will call the name of the member to enable the member to put supplementary questions.

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Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The answering of questions is defined by the rules.

President.—I say this after knowing the practice elsewhere.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I bow to the President's ruling.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Are we allowed to put the same questions on another occasion?

President.—Questions once answered cannot be put again. That is the rule on that point.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I mean it is all to be done in one hour. Still, for arguments' sake, suppose there are 40 or 50 questions, of which some questions you are not inclined to answer. By a simple manipulation, you give us all the pleasant ones in the first 2 or 3 pages, and the unpleasant ones which follow them would not be answered, because there is no time. That is the difficulty.

President.—We know the principle in Madras. There may be any number of questions for a day. It will not be possible to answer them all. But you need not attribute such motives to the Government, nor insinuate that the Government follow a particular order to avoid the so-called unpleasant questions. Questions may be sometimes unpleasant. Government will do their best to answer them. I don't deny that such results may ensue.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—But not on the score of unpleasantness, Sir, that such results at times ensue.

The appointment of a Staff Selection Board for the State.

7. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform, in view of the criticisms that have been frequently made in the Legislative Council by non-official members about the unsatisfactory methods of selecting candidates for Government service (as at present exists) and of the suggestion made to appoint a Staff Selection Board consisting mainly of non-official members, if the Government will appoint a Staff Selection Board, and if the answer is inthe negative;

(b) the reason for not doing so ;

(c) whether at the Headmasters' Conference held at Trichur on the 18th and 19th January 1926, Mr. K. Raman Menon and Mrs. Velayudha Menon advocated the formation of a Board consisting also of non-officials for the selection of suitable candidates for appointment in Sirkar Schools ;

(d) whether the Conference did not agree that a Board ou the lines suggested might be constituted and Government addressed on the subject ;

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